

ago and endeavor to ease the pain of their descendants not only out of sympathy for what they have experienced, but to remind ourselves that we must never allow it to happen again.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. IRENE  
DUPLESSIS

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Irene Duplessis of Worcester, Massachusetts who turns 100 years old on May 1, 2012. Irene is an active woman who enjoys spending time with her family, playing bingo, and participating in Elder Summit Care. Today, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in wishing Mrs. Irene Duplessis a Happy 100th Birthday!

APRIL 23 INTERNATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S DAY

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Turkish-Americans and Turkish people throughout the world are commemorating April 23 as National Sovereignty and Children's Day and I happily join them.

On April 23, 1920, during the War of Independence, the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara to lay the foundation of a new, independent, and secular Republic, born from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire. President Mustafa Kemal Atatürk openly declared that it was absolutely necessary to form a government that would be the "destiny of the country" governed "by the determination and will of the Turkish nation as expressed in the Grand National Assembly."

President Atatürk dedicated April 23 to the children of the country to emphasize that they are the future of the new nation.

Following the victory over invading forces and the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne on July 24, 1923, Atatürk began to create the first predominantly Muslim secular, pluralistic, and westward-looking democracy. Over the next eight years, Atatürk embarked on ambitious and sweeping reforms in education, women's rights, and the judicial system. Today, Turkey stands as a model for other countries looking to shed their past and join the international community of democratic countries.

Every year, the children in Turkey celebrate this National Sovereignty and Children's Day as a national holiday. Schools participate in week-long ceremonies marked by performances in all fields in large stadiums watched by the entire nation. Among the activities included on this day is one in which the children send their peer representatives to work with state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices. The President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Ministers, and provincial governors all work with children in their offices. These children, in turn, sign executive

orders relating to educational and environmental policies. On this day, the children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss matters concerning children's issues.

The importance of April 23 as a special day for children has spread to the international community. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) decided to recognize this important day as International Children's Day.

Congratulations to the country of Turkey on the occasion of National Sovereignty and Children's Day.

COMMEMORATING THE 97TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commemorating the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Ninety-seven years ago, the government of the Ottoman Empire started a ruthless and systematic campaign of genocide against the Armenian people. Beginning with the targeted execution of 300 Armenian leaders, this intentional attempt at extermination ultimately claimed the lives of over 1.5 million people and forcibly exiled another 500,000.

And despite these chilling numbers and a clear historical record of fact, there remains a failure to acknowledge this vast human tragedy for what it truly is: genocide. That is why it is essential that we continue to speak out and solemnly commemorate the Armenian Genocide. Accordingly, I am proud to support a resolution this session of Congress that affirms the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide and honors its victims and survivors.

By acknowledging this dark chapter of human history, we help protect against the possible creation of a violent culture of impunity. We cannot allow past acts of evil to be erased from our collective consciousness if we are to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to take time today to remember and honor the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN DANA  
CHAN, D.D.S

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Steven Chan. Dr. Chan was recently installed, on March 30, 2012, as the 38th President of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Chan is a Pediatric Dental Specialist and has practiced in Fremont, California for over twenty-eight years. With a patient base of thousands, he has helped two generations of patients grow up with healthy, beautiful smiles.

The mission of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry is to serve the membership

and the public by advocating for the optimal oral health of infants, children, and adolescents. Dr. Chan is well suited to lead the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry. His education, professional expertise, experience, academic positions, hospital appointments, professional honors, professional association memberships, leadership skills, and community service are outstanding.

Dr. Chan's professional honors include Fellowships in the American College of Dentists, Academy of Dentistry International, American Academy of Pediatric Dentists, Pierre Fauchard Academy, and the International College of Dentists.

He received the Citizen of the Year Award from Citizens for a Better Community and the Southern Alameda County Dental Society's Douglas R. Franklin Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Chan has served in numerous leadership positions within the California Dental Association and the American Dental Association. He holds significant professional association memberships related to dentistry and is also a member of the American Society of Association Executives.

Dr. Chan has not only distinguished himself in his profession but also continues to be a prominent force in community service. He has served in leadership positions in the South Bay Chinese Club Scholarship Foundation, Citizens for a Better Community, Fremont Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Foundation, Fremont Library Commission, Washington Hospital Foundation, Ohlone Community College and has engaged in numerous civic activities to support the City of Fremont.

Dr. Chan has truly been a leader of Organized Dentistry—having served as President of the California Dental Association and now as President of his specialty, Pediatric Dentistry. He has worked to improve the quality and access to oral health for all individuals as well as advocating for the dental profession.

I am confident Dr. Chan will be a dynamic leader of the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry and I offer my congratulations and best wishes to him.

TRIBUTE TO TELACU FOR ITS  
COMMITMENT TO THE ADVANCE-  
MENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF  
LATINOS

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and ask Congress to recognize June 8th as TELACU Scholars Day.

The TELACU Education Foundation was established by TELACU in 1983 to respond to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino Students. As the largest community and economic development corporation in the United States, TELACU is a pioneering institution committed to service, empowerment, advancement and the creation of self-sufficiency within the Latino community.

Realizing the high dropout rates for Latino students, the TELACU Education Foundation responded by investing in our youth through education to create a strong future for our country. TELACU began its efforts to reverse high dropout rates among Latino students by